



NEWS

CONTACT: Fran Clader
(916) 657-7202

Media Relations Office
2555 First Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2007

07-26

LET'S LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER

(Sacramento) May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in California. Its goal is raising awareness about the importance of drivers and motorcyclists sharing the road.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) knows that sharing the road with many types of vehicles is necessary for safe highways. Because motorcycles are unlike any other vehicle on the road, they require special considerations.

CHP Commissioner Mike Brown encourages all riders and drivers to practice safe behaviors and share the road.

“Drivers of other vehicles should be courteous and aware of motorcycles around them, especially at intersections. It’s equally important for vehicles to keep a safe distance from motorcycles on the roadway. This allows the operator room to maneuver the motorcycle and avoid road hazards or adverse traffic conditions,” says Commissioner Brown.

There are more than 1.1 million licensed riders in California. Last year, more than 400 motorcyclists were killed and over 10,000 were injured as the result of a collision. Although those are preliminary figures, both represent an increase from 2005.

With a motorcycle, safety accessories are limited to equipment like helmets, jackets, boots and gloves -- not much stands between the rider and serious injury in case of a collision.

“Even as a veteran rider, I know it’s important to take a refresher course and sharpen your skills, especially if you haven’t ridden in awhile,” says Chief Ramona Prieto, who was the CHP’s first female motor officer.

Both motorists and motorcyclists can help create a safer highway environment by staying alert and using common sense and courtesy while on the road.

“Remember, we’re all out here together. Let’s be respectful and mindful of one another,” adds Commissioner Brown.

###